

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, 8-17, 27-31, 34, 38-45, and 48-55 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Askin et al. The Examiner also objected to claims 2, 3, 7, 18-26, 32, 33, 35-37, 46, 47, and 56-58 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

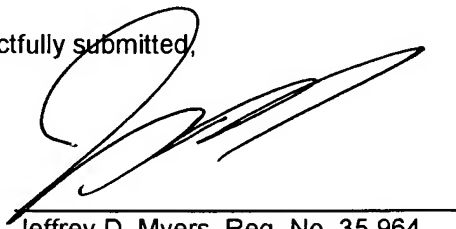
Applicant has accordingly amended independent claim 1 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 2, thereby making claim 1 allowable. Applicant has also amended independent claim 34 to include the limitations of allowable claim 35, thereby making claim 34 allowable. Claims 2 and 35 have been canceled, and claims 3 and 36 have been amended to correct dependencies. Thus all independent claims in the present application, as amended, are now allowable.

Applicant therefore submits that all claims in the present application are now allowable, and respectfully requests same from the Examiner. However, should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Also being filed herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time to January 18, 2005, which is the first business day following January 16, 2005, with the appropriate fee, as well as a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with the requisite fee. Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for accounting purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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